

**Tennessee Community Resource Board
Riverbend Maximum Security Institute
August 31, 2018**

TCRB Representatives:

Rev. Michael Rickenbaker, Chairman / West TN Representative	(P)
Mario Allen, Member / West TN Representative	(P)
Vinessa J. Brown, Member / West TN Representative	(P)
Paul Hensley, Member / West TN Representative	(A)
Thurston S. Smith, Member / West TN Representative	(P)
J.R. Davis, Member / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Joan Evrist, Secretary / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Tom Hallquist, Treasurer / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Ronda Waters, Member / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Sean Driscoll, Member / East TN Representative	(A)
Raeanne Hance, Member / East TN Representative	(A)
Lee Ragsdale, Member / East TN Representative	(P)
Rep. William Lamberth, House Representative	(P)

TDOC Representatives:

Chaplain Brian Darnell, Director of Religious Services	(P)
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Guests:

Vicki Helgesen, Leaving The Cocoon

Call To Order – Michael Rickenbaker
9:13 a.m.

Prayer – J.R. Davis

Welcome – Michael Rickenbaker

Review and Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Lee Ragsdale motioned to approve.
Thurston Smith seconded the motion.
All in favor.

TDOC / Take One Presentations

- Rev. Darnell –
 - Take One – as of the end of this month we have about 710 matches with Take One. That credit goes to a lot of folks, in particular to the United Methodist contingencies. We also need mentors at the DRCs. My issue when I came on was to see all these pending applications matched with mentors. Part of our limitations are time and space on the schedule. I would like to grow the program in a good way – quality mentors, mentors who are in it for the long haul, etc. Mentors are either innately qualified for the work, or they're not. End of the year slows down.

- Education – I appreciate what Tom Hallquist has brought. When someone doesn't have a parental figure, the default person is often a teacher. So education is important.
- Policies – There are about 5 policies that I'm trying to get going, including some things with religious services with legal. For the Chaplains, we're heading into the time of year that there won't be a lot of movement. I'm available to all of the members of TCRB.
- Lee Ragsdale – When Take One started the intention was that one church would take one inmate. It sounds like we're modifying it to some extent, is that right?
- Rev. Darnell – Here's how it has evolved. We had this approach of one at a time, get 5-6 volunteers signed up, but then they're suddenly unavailable. We have others who have a lot of octane in their availability and willingness to mentor. I've been trying to get these people to come in to do group mentoring, with specialized attention as needed from those in churches. The one church taking one, just doesn't scale. I have one church that might be mentoring 60 people at 3 different facilities.
- Mario Allen – How is training happening now?
- Rev. Darnell – If you have a church group who wants training (esp. 5-10 people), I will help facilitate that.
- Michael Rickenbaker – I want to thank Chaplain Darnell for the personal and positive relationship that he has established with this Board.

Update on Education – Tom Hallquist

- Tom Hallquist – The question is, what's your purpose? This has to be changed in the mindset of everyone (inmates, officers, etc.). In regards to education its been denied that I can teach a purpose-driven educational program. In essence this program was not able to move forward in the state of TN. But, I finally got it approved (not in TN). What is the purpose of these inmates getting an education? It's to shape the lives of their children and the future. Right now the mindset is you do a crime, you do time. We have to change the mindset to real rehabilitation through education. Values – that's what we need to look at. In regards to education, we're trying to get grant money to build a school, to develop purpose-driven education courses for GED and then onto Associates, etc. The curriculum I'm developing is this purpose-driven education – building the “why” into the curriculum. It's becoming effective, and the response is tremendous. This is for the inmates, but we also need to change the mindset of the system. I did a survey because I wanted to get TDOC involved. I have two other professors and a lawyer along with me to sign off on it. I posed the question with inmates – what's the connection between your level of education and your incarceration. The responses were incredible – they want to improve. These inmates are giving us solutions on how to correct the problem.
- J.R. Davis – You said it earlier on – that we would become more pro-active with the legislator. Maybe there's a subcommittee to meet so that we can address things with the organization that's over us, along with our representative (Lamberth).
- Rep. Lamberth – I think it's absolutely necessary for you to let legislators know what you recommend and bring awareness.
- Lee Ragsdale – And remember, we are a volunteer advocacy board. Most of that is done, if we want better services, we have to go to where services are provided and appeal to them.
- Tom Hallquist – The tone is set is for coalition and partnership. Small steps with this purpose/value-driven program. It will change the perspective and mindset.

- Thurston Smith – Back in January is when we had the brief but impactful discussion about establishing this committee. My charge was to establish a mission statement:
 - To establish a broad mechanism, wherein members of the Tennessee Community Resource Board (TCRB) and its leadership can publicize, promote, and engage the general public in matters relating to TCRB programs, initiatives, and accomplishments. As the TCRB maintains the charge of working in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Corrections (TDOC), TCRB’s Public Affairs Ad Hoc Committee will remain abreast of current trends, practices, and policies which have a direct impact on TDOC volunteer programs and other initiatives. To these ends, the TCRB Public Affairs Ad Hoc Committee will ensure the timely exchange of information and activities through the establishment and maintenance of the following mechanisms:
 - TCRB website
 - TCRB Face Book page
 - TCRB member email addresses
 - Regular interface with the TDOC webmaster (e.g. <https://www.tn.gov/correction/tennessee-community-resource-board.html>)
- Tom Hallquist – I really like that.
- Michael Rickenbaker – We’d like to make a motion to approve this.
 - Tom Hallquist motioned to approve.
 - Vinessa Brown seconded the motion.
 - All in favor.

Grand Division Reports

- East TN:
 - Lee Ragsdale – We continue to struggle, people are doing a lot and things are going one, but what we struggle with most is communication. Our TREC has been operating more or less as the LCRB. In many cases it would be the same people, but we don’t have an official LCRB for outside. All the prisons have good maintaining LCRBs, but for probation/parole it’s been a struggle to establish LCRB outside. Communication has been an issue. Rev. Darnell has done a great job, but we don’t have a good way to get a list of the people he’s recruited. We want to have informal appreciation gatherings or mentors in churches, we want to get out and do more education and recruitment of churches in addition to what Rev. Darnell is doing – he’s doing an amazing job. We just need to know how many people we have, and what we can do to help make re-entry more successful. To do that, we’ve looked at how we can add members to our group and organize in a way that’s more structured with subcommittees and committees, etc. And also more open communication so we don’t have service gaps.
- Middle TN:
 - Joan Evrist – At TPFW, we’ve had a lot going on. We had talked about at the last meeting about all that we do in the fall and Christmas and the committees are moving forward with those. We also put together a committee for staff appreciation in the fall. We’ve also been working visitation and redecorating the visitation area, getting TV

screens, etc., for the kids so they can watch things with their moms. We have a lot of wonderful volunteers. I really appreciate Chaplain Walker because she does want a move of God in TPFW. She's initiated lots of prayer.

- Vicki Helgesen – At the Annex, we see a veil being lifted from the Annex. There was a spirit of depression and hopelessness, but we have a lot of prayer warriors and change is taking place. We set up mentors 6-9 months out of probation. Our women who are mentoring go in 2x a month to see the person their meeting with, and then when the women are out of the prison they stay with their mentor 6-9 months.
 - Michael Rickenbaker – I had an opportunity to go into TPFW in June/July and speak. I was impressed with Cheryl (Chaplains Assistant). I had the chance to baptize 14 women. It's exciting when doors are open to the church, God moves. When we're given opportunities to go into the prison, it's important that we take it seriously. It's a God-send to them. Also, I very much appreciate Chaplain Darnell for connecting volunteers and making sure they're honored.
 - J.R. Davis – We're doing great in Riverbend. We, too, have had challenges lately. Our LCRB is built of a number of active people. I wish it could be more. Our main thing is at Christmas. There's so much more that LCRB could be doing, but there are challenges. As far as helping men who have been incarcerated to come back in and volunteer, I'm a big proponent of that. I think there needs to be a time period, a vouching for them, etc. Our guys are dying to hear someone they were in with to say being on parole isn't hard if you do what you're supposed to do. Or, jobs are hard to get, but it is possible when you keep going and don't give up. Rep. Lamberth, is there talk of a legislative oversight committee for TDOC?
 - Rep. Lamberth – What we're thinking about is having some legislative oversight committees. Several of us think it would be helpful and to use that existing committee structure.
 - Michael Rickenbaker – I have dealt with two situations with deaths within the system since our last meeting. It seems that there has been an increase in suicides, attempts of suicide, overdose, etc. And they're being pressured and threatened from people outside via cell phone.
 - Rep. Lamberth – One of the things we've been working on with the federal govt is cell phone blocking. The federal won't let us put a cell phone blocker in the prison. We're trying to work on it, and I'm hopeful it will break loose.
- West TN:
 - Mario Allen – We were focusing on the transition houses in TN, and it's been a challenge – one got shut down. Lifeline is tremendous – they take anyone, and transform people that others won't even deal with.
 - Michael Rickenbaker – In Whiteville I was encouraged by the Chaplain when he first got there, but I haven't heard from him since then. I'd like to ask that there is attention placed on this.
 - Report from Paul Hensley (via email)
Local Community Resource Board Meeting – NWCX – Tiptonville
Thursday, August 23, 2018. 6:30-10:00 PM
First Fiscal Quarter of 2018, Second calendar quarter of 2018

The LCRB meeting was held in the Muster Room at Site One and was called to order by LCRB Chairman, Paul Hensley. Chaplain Bolden asked God's blessings on the meeting. Twenty-seven attended the meeting. Chairman Hensley recognized Warden Phillips, introduced new Chaplain, Terry Bolden, who addressed the meeting, and recognized Kiara Young, who also addressed the meeting. Ms. Young is the Volunteer Services Coordinator at TDOC Jackson DRC - CRC office.

Warden Phillips' Report

Warden Phillips greeted the meeting warmly. He acknowledged and praised the work being done by Volunteers. He also did a fine job of explaining the foundation and premise for Take One. We are moving forward under his leadership.

LCRB Chairman, Paul Hensley's Report

Thursday, 5-10-18

I delivered ten pecan pies to NWCX for Officer Appreciation Week.

At 8:30 I taught the Certification, Recertification class at NWCX. After the class, I sat in Chaplain Glenn's office for the remainder of the day. He has retired.

At 6:30 I chaired the LCRB meeting.

Tuesday, 5-15-18

Chaplain Gross gave me a full tour of the parts of NWCX that I was not familiar with. This was a profitable time for me as Chaplain Gross shared many experiences birthed from years of moving and shaking in prison environments. I also got to meet with staff I had not been in contact with.

Tuesday, 5-22-18

I went to NRU and conversed with staff and some inmates one-on-one.

Tuesday, 5-29-18

I went to the Juvenile and PC units and conversed with staff and inmates one-on-one.

Thursday, 6-6-18

I visited the Juvenile and PC units.

Chaplain Gross and I had lunch and discussed matters of security for Volunteers. As always, I profited from his wealth of knowledge.

I spoke briefly with School Principle, Ronnie Lanier. He promised to meet with me, at my convenience, to explain the many classes offered to inmates at NWCX. I anticipate this meeting.

Wednesday, 6-13-18

I met with inmates at Neal Rone Unit.

Tuesday, 6-19-18

I had lunch with Chaplain Gross. We discussed the investigation of a Volunteer accused of having an inmate send money to the Volunteer's home.

Thursday, 8-16-18

I had lunch with Chaplain Gross and our new Chaplain, Terry Bolden. Later I visited with Chaplain Bolden in his office. I look forward to working with Chaplain Bolden.

I covered the Chaplain's office at Lake Co. from May 5 to August 9 one day a week. Larry Glenn had retired and Terry Bolden was in the process of being hired and trained.

Chaplain Gross – Main Compound, Annex, and NRU Report

- 485 Religious/Volunteer services occurred – 174 at Site One, 196 at Lake Co., 115 at NRU.
- 67 death notices delivered.
- 74 emergency calls made for inmates.
- 110 one-on-one counseling sessions with inmates.
- 21 counseling sessions with staff and free-world individuals.
- 2 end-of-life sessions.
- 9 PAICE Meetings.
- 33 visits to Segregated Units.
- 65 Anger Class graduates.
- 125 Participants in ongoing class.
- 4 outside clergy visits.
- 25 Volunteer Chaplain visits.
- 4 Power House one-day revivals.
- 1 Gulf Coast Prison Ministry three-day revival.
- 2 New Beginnings Ministry four-day revivals.
- 4 Calvary Baptist Church five-day revivals.
- 6 Baptisms occurred.
- Ramadan completed.
- Abraham feast upcoming for Muslim inmates.
- Upcoming feast of Tabernacles/Yom Kippur celebration.
- 2 premarital counseling sessions.
- 1 wedding completed.
- Commissioner visit on 8-21.
- New Chaplain trained and working at Lake County/NRU now.
- Next Trainings will be on 9-22 @ 1:00 PM at First UPC of Union City, and then on 10-06 again at NWCX (6:30 at usual location).
- Planning on the Volunteer Appreciation Meal in November.

Chaplain Bolden and Chaplain Gross appreciate all the work Volunteers do to assist. Chaplain Bolden is now in the Annex Chapel Office and "open for business".

In-service Training/Recertification and New Volunteer Orientation

Recertification and New Volunteer Orientation Training was conducted by Chaplain Gross. Information Update forms and required CR forms were distributed, completed, and signed by Volunteers. Copies of the 2018 TDOC Volunteer Handbook, Inmate Handbook, Visitor Handbook, and Policies #115.01, 302.05, 305.03, 502.06, 504.01, 506.06, and 507.01 were given to all New Volunteers and those being Re-certified and Re-oriented.

The following highlights were emphasized during training:

- Volunteer Standards.
- Policies #502.06.01,2,3, PREA responsibilities for volunteers, zero tolerance, PREA reporting, definitions, and Federal PREA standards.
- Security changes, computer generated passes, and Controlled Movement.
- Professionalism and Re-certification Period (annually, 2 yr., 3 yr. cycle).
- Volunteers being on visitation list, and donation/receiving items or money to/from inmates.
- Items that can be brought into the institution by Program Volunteers.

Questions were asked and answered to meet all Policy Training Orientation and Re-certification requirements.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Recorders: Kurt Gross and Paul Hensley

Other Business

- TCRB Membership Positions
 - Brian Bishop
 - Lee Ragsdale – I do have a question about a member of the Board also being a State employee.
 - Michael Rickenbaker – In the past that was the case. We will look into if that is still the case moving forward. I'd like to see about making a motion to accept the application from Brian Bishop for one of the vacant positions in East TN position.
 - Lee Ragsdale motioned to accept application.
 - Thurston Smith seconded the motion to accept application.
 - Michael Rickenbaker – Now for Rev. Darnell to speak about Brian Bishop.
 - Rev. Darnell – I wholeheartedly recommend him as a member of the TCRB. Because he is the product of the very thing we are trying to do. He's also based in East TN which would be a big help.
 - Mario Allen – What does it say about what he can contribute to the Board?
 - Michael Rickenbaker – According to his application, professional skills, etc.
 - All in favor of accepting application from Brian Bishop.
 - Tommy Mathis
 - J.R. Davis – He works with Men of Valor. He has a unique position that takes him to every prison in the state. He has a unique perspective on challenges around the state and also is a “can do” guy and likes to get things done. I recommend Tommy as a great access to us.
 - Rev. Darnell – I also worked with him at D. Berry. He's a go-getter and a go-to guy.
 - Tom Hallquist – Can he be appointed to any division?
 - Lee Ragsdale – I think you need someone from East TN who can help us establish an LCRB. I do think he could be a good member, don't get me wrong. He could advocate every part of the state.
 - J.R. Davis – He's excited to be a part of this because he's already out there doing it. Knowing Tommy and getting him involved on the Board in a specific area (like East TN), it would give him a higher priority in that area.

- Tom Hallquist motioned to accept application from Tommy Mathis.
- Thurston Smith seconded motion to accept application from Tommy Mathis.
- Michael Rickenbaker – Could this be something that is primarily focusing him on Southeast TN? In specifically the Chattanooga area to really focus his attention and efforts. The good thing about that is that if he is travelling consistently and makes that a regular place of his attention, it may give even better attention to that area that someone who is in that area.
- Lee Ragsdale – I still don't see how he could be focused on that area to help establish a LCRB there. If you tell me that he can do that, I would vote for him.
- Chaplain Darnell – In this conversation I've heard Chattanooga mentioned very little in the last 90 days. I found some files and there's a couple of volunteers who go to Bledsoe quite a bit who is in the Chattanooga area and would be open to being a part of this Board. If we need to focus in Chattanooga, I'm happy to point my laser in that direction. I'm not sure what will happen in Chattanooga – it's not on the radar. It's having a presence there's that matters. I don't want to try to fit someone in a place that doesn't fit.
- Thurston Smith – I think it sets a precedent to have someone in a division who isn't from there. It would not be ethical to leave a spot open for Vicki (who is here), versus voting on someone who already has an application.
- Michael Rickenbaker – I believe we would have to move on Tommy for Middle TN. There's a motion that on the floor to vote Tommy onto the Board. All in favor of bringing him on in Middle TN.
 - All in favor of accepting application for Tommy Mathis for Middle TN.
- J.R. Davis – I want to start the discussion about adding an "at large" position on the Board (someone who goes to all of the divisions).
 - Lee Ragsdale – This board was created by state law and all the bylaws that have been established are in state law.
 - Thurston Smith – It would require a change of statute.
- Michael Rickenbaker – We will not move on the application for Teresa Turns since we don't have a Middle TN position open at this time.
- Thurston Smith – I recommend that the applications be mailed versus emailed to members. If that's not possible, then black out the SSN on the applications.

Announcements

- Michael Rickenbaker – Our next meeting is Friday, October 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Riverbend.
- Michael Rickenbaker – Reimbursements have not been happening. That needs to be addressed.
- Michael Rickenbaker – I entertain a motion that the TCRB renews it's commitment to an annual retreat for the purpose of advancing corrections and the role of the TCRB within corrections, to assist promote and advance volunteerism. We would entertain a motion and appoint a committee. Mario, Lee, Ronda will form the committee to plan a retreat.
 - Tom Hallquist motioned to appoint a committee.
 - Thurston Smith seconded the motion to appoint a committee.
 - All in favor.

- Mario Allen – One of the things we could do is allow the TCRB to get certified in some things that would help them as they are serving. Classes, etc.
- Vinessa Brown – Could we get the Mass Incarceration information from Vicki Helgesen?
- Vicki Helgesen – Yes, October 25-27, Cathedral of Praise.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Lee Ragsdale made a motion to adjourn.

Mario Allen seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Riverbend